

Prof. Massey's Views.

How shall I keep cucumbers till ready for pickling? Put them into a strong brine and weight them down to keep them under the brine and they will keep all right till you want to pickle them.

How shall I make a weak cider vinegar strong? Put the barrel on an elevation and let the cider drip slowly into another cask, and the exposure to the air will make it stronger. Better still, if let run slowly through a trough of beech wood.

Mr. B. H. Thompson, of Aurora, N. C., sends us a wonderfully fine barrel of his Irish potatoes, and said that he had 2,100 barrels. If they were as good as those sent us, they were certainly very fine. One of these great potatoes makes a meal for my daughter and myself.

How shall I keep weevils out of peas? If there are weevils in the peas, they got in when green and will hatch out, and the only thing to do is to put the peas in a close bin or box and put a saucer of carbon bisulfide on top and cover the box, and the fumes will destroy the weevils. But you can keep them out by mixing some moth balls among the peas and hanging them up in sacks.

I am doing some whitewashing to my buildings with a spray pump. Will it be all right to whitewash the shingle roofs? Certainly it will. The coat of whitewash will not only protect and prevent decay of the wood, but it will make it much harder for the shingles to catch fire from sparks. You can color the wash for the roof any shade desired.

How shall I get rid of dodder that covers my clover and grass? You could have done it easily before it covered the field. Whenever a little patch of dodder is seen, take a bunch of straw and put it on it and set fire to the straw. But after it has covered the whole field, the only thing is to plow it all under, and if the dodder seeds germinate with nothing on the land to get hold of, they will soon die.

In selecting seed from a prolific corn which makes three ears on a stalk, shall I take the top ear, the middle ear, or the bottom ear? If the object in selecting seed corn is to reduce the height of the plant and to get it into a better stature, I would select the lowest ear next the ground, but if you are satisfied with the stature of the corn, select seed from the most prolific stalks and take the best ear on the plant regardless of where it grew.

How shall I prepare a lettuce bed? Sow seed of the Big Boston lettuce early in August, and as soon as the plants are large enough, set them in rows a foot apart and ten inches in the rows in very heavily manured soil, and you can get good heads in the fall. Then for winter, make a frame with glass sashes and sow the seed in late August or early September and set the plants in the frame, and when the nights get frosty put the sashes on them and attend to airing daily and watering them when needed, and you can have good lettuce during the winter.

In the flower garden the bulbs of the old-fashioned white lily (*Lilium candidum*) should be planted in August. This lily must make a rosette of green leaves in the fall in order to bloom well the following season. Other bulbs are planted later and I will tell about them in September. Seed of Phlox Drummondii sown now will winter well and come into bloom earlier than seed sown in the spring. Hollyhock seed should be sown in August to get good plants to winter over and bloom the next summer. Pansy seed can also be sown and the plants either transplanted to beds in the open ground for spring flowering or set in cold-frames under glass for earlier blooming.

As Mr. Niven says, too many people plant a garden in the spring and that is the end of it. As I have often said, I make my garden an all-the-year-round garden, and there is not a day in the year when we are not getting some green vegetable from it. As fast as an early crop is removed I get something in its place either for late summer or fall and later for winter use. Intensive manuring and intensive planting and cultivation pay better in a garden than on any other part of the farm, and fresh vegetables all the year round are easily had in the South if the farmer will but make an intelligent effort.

No man ever succeeds well in any business which is distasteful to him. Every successful professional man is an enthusiast in his profession. Our great surgeons and great lawyers are such largely because they are in love with their work and no man will be a great farmer unless he is enthusiastic in his love for the soil and its improvement. A fondness for the work, for seeing the soil grow better and richer, for seeing the cattle and the pigs and the poultry improving and

comfortable, all go to the making of a successful farmer.

One of my neighbors mixed 400 pounds of kainit, 400 pounds of cotton-seed meal, 400 pounds of 8-3-3 and 800 pounds of lime to make a fertilizer. What has become of the ammonia that cost him so much? He has little of it left I should assume. It seems hard to make some farmers understand that lime should not be mixed with a fertilizer containing ammonia or with manure. The men who are selling the so-called prepared lime as a fertilizer are largely responsible for the farmers' imagining that lime is a fertilizer. I gave some time ago the analysis of one of these which seems to be a mixture of lime, plaster and kainit, and is sold as a fertilizer. If your land is acid and needs lime, use the lime alone, and when you mix a fertilizer never use any lime in it.

My collard leaves are turning yellow and dropping off and the stems are rotten. I am told it is called yellow-sides, and is caused by a very small white insect, and there is no cure for it. It is true that there is no cure known for this disease, but it is not caused by an insect, though there may be seen little white maggots in the rotten stems. It is caused by a minute form of fungus, known as *Fusarium*, and the soil gets infected. The only thing that can be done is to avoid soil where cabbages, collards, turnips or kale have recently grown, as all this family of plants carry the infection. Then grow good late cabbages, and do not waste land with collards. You can set good strong plants of the late Flat Dutch in late August and can head them in November or early December, and they can then be kept in winter.

You say that you know farmers who make cotton at a cost of four and a half cents a pound. Now I hold that it is absolutely impossible to make cotton for anything near so low a figure. Certainly you cannot, if you take four or five acres to make a bale. If you simply plant cotton and do not farm in a good rotation, but depend on the fertilizer man and stalk land, year after year, you certainly cannot grow cotton for four and a half cents a pound. Years ago, the late E. R. McIver, of Darlington, S. C., told me that he made cotton at a cost of four and a half cents a pound, and that his bacon cost him the same price, and at that time cotton was six cents and he was getting fourteen cents for bacon. The man who grows no forage crops, feeds no stock, makes no manure, and runs his land in cotton, year after year will make cotton usually at a cost of about nine or ten cents a pound. The cost of any crop will depend on the farming the farmer does, and if our correspondent finds it impossible to make cotton at a cost of four and a half cents a pound, he should go to work and improve his methods and get more cotton per acre. Now I do not propose to enter into a controversy, and I would be glad if our farmers who keep accounts with their crops will tell us how much their cotton costs, and the methods they use in farming, and whether they are farming or merely planting cotton.

Can asparagus, lettuce, horseradish, salsify, leeks, parsnips, carrots and beets be profitably grown in the Virginia counties on the Eastern Shore? The two counties of Accomac and Northampton are mainly devoted to the growing of early Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes, though early cabbage and onions are grown to some extent. But there is no reason why asparagus and the other crops you name could not be profitably grown there for the northern markets, with the exception of celery. Of course, celery for winter use can be grown there, but I doubt the success of growing it commercially, for the region is between the commercial celery grown in summer and early fall in the North, and the late winter and spring celery of Florida and California, and in this latitude commercial celery growing has never developed and conditions are against it. With the use of sashes on cold frames, as is done largely near Norfolk, there are a great many things, like lettuce and beets that can be very profitably forwarded there. I was among the Norfolk gardeners in early April and saw a field of beets in long beds six feet wide then nearly ready to ship. These had been started under glass, and later the frames removed to another location to plant hills of cucumbers under the sashes, the cucumbers having been started in hot beds in veneer boxes so that they could be transplanted readily. Little intensive gardening has as yet been done in these two counties, where soil and mild climate combine to give the gardener who uses glass a great advantage with the quick transportation to the northern cities by rail and water. The growers there generally prefer the extensive growing of potatoes and do not to any extent use glass as they might.

PLANT AN APPLE ORCHARD.

Years ago, when the Delaware growers began to plant summer apples and were getting good prices for them,

they were told that they would soon overdo the summer apple business. But they kept on planting summer apples, and every year they have gotten better and better prices for them. At the same time they have been planting largely of winter fruit. I am now eating Stayman Winesap apples grown in lower Delaware, which cost me at the grocer's 80 cents a peck, and the grower got \$6 a barrel for them at his orchard. If there is a finer apple grown I have never seen it, and I have lately been eating Albemarle Pippins, too. These are fine, but to my taste, the Stayman is even better.

Now, there are sections all over the South where the finest of apples can be grown, and every year we have to pay more and more for good apples. Of course, in the warmer sections of the South, good winter-keeping apples can hardly be produced. But with the great development in the cold storage business, they can be kept a great deal longer than formerly. Then sales can be made as the market demands. But all over the upper Piedmont sections of the South the finest of apples can be grown, and in the western mountains of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama the finest apples can be grown to perfection, and good keepers, too.

Last year, in Haywood county, N. C., I found that apple culture is extending rapidly. But they are growing too many Ben Davis. They were then getting \$2.25 a barrel at the station for Ben Davis, and, of course, it pays fairly well to grow them at that price. But what a difference there is between \$2.25 a barrel and \$5 a barrel that the growers are now getting for Stayman. Ben Davis has had its day, and when people can get better apples, they are not going to buy Ben Davis. Then, too, in all the upper South where there is rapid railroad transportation, it will pay well to plant summer apples, such as the Yellow Transparent, Red Astrakan and others. There is more profit in a good apple orchard in the Piedmont and mountain sections of the South than in an orange grove in south Florida. The rapidly increasing demand for good apples keeps ahead of their production, and every year the prices are higher and higher. But anyone in this day who wants to make profit in apples must give them the best care and spray regularly.

MAKE GOOD SHOCKS.

A tremendous amount of grain is lost every year because some people do not know how to make good shocks. I never shock grain if I can help it because I believe it is better to stack and give the grain a chance to cure. But if threshing is to be done from the shock then they must be good ones. The long shocks do not turn rain as well as the round shock. If this is well set up, the sheaves placed close together and evenly and well capped, the grain will not be damaged by an ordinary rain. Capping is not for boys or amateurs. It takes a good capper to save the shock. The sheaves must be well broken in the middle and the straw bent downward in all directions to make a perfect thatch. But of course the right way to cap shocks is to use canvas covers. They cost something but they will last a long time and they do save the grain.—R. M. A.

If the farm is stocked well with well-bred cattle, horses, hogs and sheep, and sickness does not afflict his family and his home is adorned with magazines, papers and books, the farmer has every element of social and intellectual contentment.

Chicks hatched in June, July and August begin laying in February and March, and lay enough the first season to pay for the extra care.

The land that is properly cultivated does not need rest and therefore "fallowing" is a waste of time.

All nature teaches man that there is contentment in work, and the farm offers man the highest opportunity for healthful exercise.

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TIRED OF THE AUTO?

I see that many of the rich swells in the east are selling their autos and going back to horses and carriages. The reason given is that they have ridden all over the country until it is no longer a novelty and are getting tired of it. Then, too, autos are so common that the "smart set," I believe they are called, hanker after something new. There may be something in that but the farmers are not likely to be affected by the whim. In spite of the wonderful growth of the auto there are more horses in the country today and prices are higher than ever. A good horse will always be a comfort and a joy forever.

But I believe the auto has come to stay too. Always it will be used for business. I would not sell mine if I could not buy another. I have not sold my horses either because I find it pays better to keep them at work than to use them on the road. The auto is the thing for speed and comfort and fun.—A Farmer.

The farm is the best place to enjoy life, where artificial conditions are eliminated and man comes into direct contact with nature.

Better burn that clover hay at the bottom of the mow or stack that is full of worms before new hay is put in. The clover hay worm is a nuisance.

A parasite with a long and unpronounceable name has been introduced into California to fight the codling moth. It is said to be making good and has begun the destruction.

If there is a fowl in the flock a little out of condition that bird is apt to prove the most lousy member of the flock.

If the poultry house is overcrowded, kill off some of the older birds. Keep stocked up with young thrifty layers.

Black locust is an excellent tree to grow for posts. But it is attacked by the borer in some localities.

Have your cow's milk tested and see if you have not a few star boarders in the herd.

DUVAL DAMAGE CASE SETTLED BY PAYMENT

The famous Duval damage case against the Seaboard the verdict in which was the largest ever rendered by a court in North Carolina, has been ended by the payment of \$34,494 to the plaintiff.

The judgment on the case was \$30,000 with interest, the interest accrued since being \$4,494. The payment by the railroad was made to Duval in Portsmouth, Va., where he resides.

This case, it will be remembered, attracted unusual attention on account of the large amount of damages asked. It was not settled finally until being argued by the attorneys before the Supreme court of the United States. The attorneys for Duval were Douglass, Lyon and Douglass, of this city and H. F. Seawell, of Carthage.